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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on the Trade in Goods and Services
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Expert Meeting on Consumer Interests, Competitiveness,
Competition and Development
Geneva, 17-19 October 2001

RECOMMENDATIONS

of the International Conference on Competition in Countries in Transition

**Held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
from 1-2 October 2001**

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The International Conference on Competition in Countries in Transition, held at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 1 to 2 October 2001 with the participation and assistance of UNCTAD, adopted the following recommendations addressed to the UNCTAD group of experts on consumer protection, competitiveness and development (17-19 October 2001, Geneva):

1. In view of the importance of consumer protection and international cooperation in this area, it would be advisable to establish a permanent programme on consumer protection within UNCTAD.

2. The CIS countries, paying considerable attention to the development of State consumer protection policy and having experience in regional cooperation, request UNCTAD to provide assistance in this area.

It is suggested that assistance be extended by UNCTAD through the programme for the implementation of the CIS countries' agreement on cooperation in the field of consumer protection adopted at the 14th meeting of the CIS Inter-State Council on Antimonopoly Policy (28 September 2001). Particular attention should be paid to legislative support for consumer protection and educational and public information work.

3. It would be advisable to hold the next UNCTAD expert meeting on consumer protection competitiveness and development in the first half of 2002 with a view to pursuing inter-State cooperation in this area.

4. The CIS countries, which are experiencing financial difficulties in supporting State consumer protection policy, call on the developed countries to ensure donor assistance for the achievement of the goals set.